

B.A. Bulletin

April 2001

Important Health Benefits News for Benefits Administrators

Upcoming Events

APR

April 1 – May 1 ♦ Open Enrollment period for employees at colleges and universities
April 18 ♦ Rate notifications sent to non-Medicare eligible retirees and Extended Coverage participants

MAY

May 1 – 31 ~ Open Enrollment period for employees at all other state agencies
May 8 ~ Last day to key Open Enrollment changes for colleges and universities
May 15 ~ Last day to exercise a Floating Enrollment (June 1 effective date)

JUNE

June 7 ~ Last day to key Open Enrollment changes for all other state agencies

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Paying Health Insurance Premiums Pre- or After-Tax

The period in which employees may choose to pay for their health benefits on a pre-tax or after-tax basis (Premium Conversion) has been changed from November of each year to the Open Enrollment period each spring. Because of this change, participants will be able to waive health benefits coverage this spring during Open Enrollment. This update replaces the information on this matter published in the March issue of the *Spotlight* newsletter.

Annual enrollment for the Medical Reimbursement and Dependent Care Reimbursement accounts will continue to be held during November.

Telephone-Based EmployeeDirect Delayed

EmployeeDirect's web-based system is operating during the April enrollment period for colleges and universities, but the interactive voice response (IVR) telephone-based version is currently unavailable. We expect that the IVR system will be available May 7, possibly sooner. An update will be sent on the BA e-mail network.

Employees and retirees may reach the web-based version of EmployeeDirect at <http://edirect.state.va.us>. Or, they may link to EmployeeDirect from the Department of Human Resource Management's Web site at www.dhrm.state.va.us/hbenefit.htm. If preferred, employees and retirees may download the Enrollment/Waiver forms available at this site.

Take a Look!

- An update on Open Enrollment and plans available for July 1 is now on the DHRM web site!
- The web address is www.dhrm.state.va.us/hbenefit.htm
- Look for Open Enrollment in the Announcements section on the right.
- Find out about Open Enrollment, amnesty, rates starting July 1, and plan choices. View the Spotlight newsletter, a Comparison of Benefits, Enrollment/Waiver forms and more!

Open Enrollment Materials Mailing Schedule

Information on Open Enrollment will be mailed April 18 to retirees not eligible for Medicare and to Extended Coverage participants. Each group will receive Comparison of Benefits brochures, the appropriate Enrollment/Waiver forms, applicable rates for July 1, and Primary Care Physician (PCP) Selection forms.

Revised Extended Coverage Rules "Under Construction"

Revisions to the Extended Coverage Rules sheet, including information on Open Enrollment and qualifying life events, will be completed soon. The sheet will be posted on the web site and also will be available for orders through Edgewood.

